

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

4 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, State (OIR)
Colonel E. T. Seaburn, USA (ACSI)
Captain W. S. Howell, USN (ONI)
Colonel W. B. Sawyer, USAF (ACQIN 2B2)
Colonel J. M. Pittman, USA (JIG)

SUBJECT: NIE 42.1-57: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

1. The attached terms of reference were agreed on at the meeting of the IAC representatives on 3 September.
2. All agencies are invited to contribute to any section within their competence to do so.
3. It is requested that contributions be received in this office by the close of business on 15 November.

William P. Bundy

WILLIAM P. BUNDY
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

Distribtuion "B"

SECRET

SECRET

C E N T R A L I N T E L L I G E N C E A G E N C Y

3 September 1957

USBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE: NIE 42.1-57: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

THE PROBLEM

To analyze recent trends in the Republic of Korea and to estimate probable developments over the next few years, with particular emphasis on domestic political developments.

SCOPE NOTE

Particular attention should be given in this estimate to: (a) the prospects for a basic realignment of ROK politics; (b) the problem of succession to Rhee; and (c) the political problems involved in any significant changes in the ROK's military posture.

SECRET

SECRET

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

I. RECENT TRENDS

A. Political. What significant developments have taken place since the beginning of 1956 in:

1. Rheo's position in ROK politics and government?
2. Comparative strengths of the Liberal and Democratic Parties?
3. Internal cohesiveness and a sense of responsibility in the Liberal and Democratic Parties?
4. Popular support and organizational strength of the Cho Pong-am group?
5. The role of ROK armed forces and National Police in internal political developments?
6. Effectiveness of the government in performing the normal functions of civil administration?
7. National objectives and cohesiveness?
8. Attitudes toward reunification?
9. The degree to which the general public is politically active or responsive?
10. Dissatisfaction with the whole existing pattern of ROK politics?

SECRET

B. Succession Questions. What significant developments have occurred in:

1. Rhee's physical strength and mental alertness?
2. Demonstrated political power, courage, and leadership abilities of Chang Myon? Yi Ki-pung? Cho Pyong-ok? Paek Sun-yup? Cho Pong-am? Others?
3. Attitude of armed forces leaders toward the succession problem? Attitude of National Police Leaders?
4. Constitutional provisions for the disability, but not death, of the President? Constitutional provisions concerning an orderly succession to the office of President?

C. Economic. What significant developments have occurred in:

1. Production and living levels?
2. Economic stabilization?
3. Integrity in government economic administration and business.
4. Economic objectives and policies?
5. Balance of payments position and dependence on US and UN aid?
6. The impact of the military establishment upon the economy?

SECRET

D. Security Situation. What significant developments have occurred in:

1. Extent of ROK dependence on US assistance for weapons, equipment, and budgetary support? ROK attitudes toward present US proposals for reduction of ROK forces and modernization of ROK weapons?
2. Weapon obsolescence?
3. Morale within the armed forces? Extent of corruption?
4. Armed forces leadership?
5. Combat effectiveness?
6. Capabilities of the armed forces and the police:
 - (a) to maintain internal security?
 - (b) to repel invasion from the north?
 - (c) to attempt unification of Korea by armed force?
 - (d) to affect internal political developments?

E. Subversive Elements. What significant developments have occurred in the strengths, tactics, and effectiveness of subversive elements?

F. Foreign Relations. What significant developments have occurred in:

1. Attitudes toward, and relations with, Japan?
2. Attitudes toward, and relations with, US?

SECRET

3. Attitudes toward, and relations with, other free countries?
4. Attitudes toward, and relations with, the Sino-Soviet Bloc?

II. PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS

A. Assuming a continuation of Rhee's well-being, of the present general context of the cold war, and of substantial US assistance, what are the prospects for:

1. The development of a more responsible and democratic political system?
2. Outcome of the 1958 National Assembly elections, and the significance it will have.
3. The development of stable, effective political leaders other than Rhee?
4. A constitutional change abolishing the post of Vice-President and creating a post of Prime Ministers?
5. A more viable economy?
6. Bettered relations with Japan?
7. Effectiveness, morale, and capabilities of the ROK armed forces.
8. Relations with the US, particularly with respect to ROK armed force levels and modern weapons?
9. Political ambitions and activities by ROK armed forces leaders?

SECRET

10. Attitudes toward reunification of Korea?

11. National cohesiveness?

- B. What would be the effect, if any, upon these developments of the death of Rhee? of the disability of Rhee?
- C. What would be the effect, if any, upon the developments in A above, of a sharp reduction, or withdrawal, of US forces?
- D. What would be the effect, if any, upon the developments in A above, of a substantial reduction in US aid: economic and/or military?